

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-15 are pending in this action. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 stand rejected. By this amendment claims 1, 4, 7, and 11 have been canceled and claims 3, 5, 8-10, and 12-15 have been written in independent form to include the limitations of the rejected base claims and the intervening claims, as suggested by Examiner in the Office Action dated 6/6/2006 on page 5 item 6. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all pending claims herein because the dependent claims 3, 5, 8-10, and 12-15 have been rewritten to comply with Examiner's recommendations for allowable claims and because the references cited by Examiner neither teach nor suggest all of the limitations of amended claims 3, 5, 8-10, and 12-15.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action stated that claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Holden (US 5,557,607) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,205,145 issued to Yamazaki and U.S. Patent No. 5,509,008 issued to Genda.

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 4, 7, and 11 and therefore respectfully submit that rejection to claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 under U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims objected to in the subject patent application are in condition for allowance and that the application may be passed to issuance.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
For: Alain Benayoun, et al.

By: */W. R. Harding/*

W. R. Harding
Registration No. 58,365
Telephone No.: (802) 769-8585
Fax No.: (802) 769-8938
EMAIL: rharding@us.ibm.com

International Business Machines Corporation
Intellectual Property Law - Mail 972E
1000 River Road
Essex Junction, VT 05452